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Agenda item 135

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 29 December 2014

[*on the report of the Fifth Committee (A/69/695)*]

69/250. Pattern of conferences

The General Assembly,

Recalling its relevant resolutions, including resolutions 40/243 of 18 December 1985, 41/213 of 19 December 1986, 43/222 A to E of 21 December 1988, 51/211 A to E of 18 December 1996, 52/214 of 22 December 1997, 53/208 A to E of 18 December 1998, 54/248 of 23 December 1999, 55/222 of 23 December 2000, 56/242 of 24 December 2001, 56/254 D of 27 March 2002, 56/262 of 15 February 2002, 56/287 of 27 June 2002, 57/283 A of 20 December 2002, 57/283 B of 15 April 2003, 58/250 of 23 December 2003, 59/265 of 23 December 2004, 60/236 A of 23 December 2005, 60/236 B of 8 May 2006, 61/236 of 22 December 2006, 62/225 of 22 December 2007, 63/248 of 24 December 2008, 63/284 of 30 June 2009, 64/230 of 22 December 2009, 65/245 of 24 December 2010, 66/233 of 24 December 2011, 67/237 of 24 December 2012 and 68/251 of 27 December 2013,

Reaffirming its resolution 42/207 C of 11 December 1987, in which it requested the Secretary-General to ensure the equal treatment of the official languages of the United Nations,

Having considered the report of the Committee on Conferences for 2014[1] and the relevant report of the Secretary-General,[2]

Having also considered the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[3]

Reaffirming the provisions relating to conference services in its resolutions on multilingualism, in particular resolution 67/292 of 24 July 2013,

Reaffirming also the role of the Fifth Committee of the General Assembly in administrative and budgetary matters,

Recalling its resolution 14 (I) of 13 February 1946 and the role of the Advisory Committee as a subsidiary body of the General Assembly,

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[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 32* (A/69/32).

[2] A/69/120 and Corr.1.

[3] A/69/527.

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I

Calendar of conferences and meetings

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Committee on Conferences for 2014;[1]

2. *Approves* the draft revised calendar of conferences and meetings of the United Nations for 2015, as submitted by the Committee on Conferences,[4] taking into account the observations of the Committee and subject to the provisions of the present resolution;

3. *Authorizes* the Committee on Conferences to make any adjustments to the calendar of conferences and meetings for 2015 that may become necessary as a result of actions and decisions taken by the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session;

4. *Notes with satisfaction* that the Secretariat has taken into account the arrangements referred to in General Assembly resolutions 53/208 A, 54/248, 55/222, 56/242, 57/283 B, 58/250, 59/265, 60/236 A, 61/236, 62/225, 63/248, 64/230, 65/245, 66/233, 67/237 and 68/251 concerning Orthodox Good Friday and the official holidays of Eid al-Fitr and Eid al-Adha, and requests all intergovernmental bodies to observe those decisions when planning their meetings;

5. *Acknowledges* that Yom Kippur is a significant local holiday which is observed in the host city of the Headquarters of the United Nations, invites United Nations bodies at Headquarters and other duty stations where observed to avoid holding meetings on Yom Kippur, and in this regard encourages this arrangement be taken into account when drafting future calendars of conferences and meetings;

6. *Also acknowledges* the significance of the Day of Vesak, which is observed in many Member States, invites United Nations bodies at Headquarters and other duty stations where observed to avoid holding meetings on the Day of Vesak, and in this regard encourages this arrangement be taken into account when drafting future calendars of conferences and meetings;

7. *Further acknowledges* the significance of Diwali, which is observed in many Member States, invites United Nations bodies at Headquarters and other duty stations where observed to avoid holding meetings on Diwali, and in this regard encourages this arrangement be taken into account when drafting future calendars of conferences and meetings;

8. *Acknowledges* the significance of Gurpurab, which is observed in many Member States, invites United Nations bodies at Headquarters and other duty stations where observed to avoid holding meetings on Gurpurab, and encourages this arrangement be taken into account when drafting future calendars of conferences and meetings;

9. *Also acknowledges* the significance of Orthodox Christmas, which is observed in many Member States, invites United Nations bodies at Headquarters and other duty stations where observed to avoid holding meetings on the day of Orthodox Christmas, and encourages this arrangement be taken into account when drafting future calendars of conferences and meetings;

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[4] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 32* (A/69/32), annex II.

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that any modification to the calendar of conferences and meetings is implemented strictly in accordance with the mandate of the Committee on Conferences and other relevant resolutions of the General Assembly;

11. *Invites* Member States to include in new legislative mandates adequate information on the modalities for the organization of conferences or meetings;

12. *Recalls* rule 153 of its rules of procedure, and, for resolutions involving expenditure, requests the Secretary-General to include the modalities of conferences, taking into account the trends of similar meetings, with a view to mobilizing conference services and documentation in the most efficient and cost-effective manner possible;

13. *Reaffirms* the need to address the issue of duplications and redundancies in conference servicing, and notes in this regard that the Economic and Social Council decided in its resolution 2013/13 of 22 July 2013 to consider at a later date the necessity of reviewing its provisional biennial calendar of conferences and meetings in the light of the ongoing intergovernmental consultations on the further strengthening of the Council;

II

A. Utilization of conference-servicing resources

14. *Reaffirms* the practice that, in the use of conference rooms, priority must be given to meetings of Member States;

15. *Calls upon* the Secretary-General and Member States to adhere to the guidelines and procedures contained in the administrative instruction for the authorization of the use of United Nations premises for meetings, conferences, special events and exhibits;[5]

16. *Emphasizes* that such meetings, conferences, special events and exhibits must be consistent with the purposes and principles of the United Nations;

17. *Notes* that the overall utilization factor at the four main duty stations in 2013 was 82 per cent, that in 2012 it was 84 per cent and that in 2011 it was 85 per cent, which is above the established benchmark of 80 per cent;

18. *Welcomes* the steps taken by those bodies that have adjusted their programmes of work in order to achieve the optimum utilization of conference-servicing resources, and requests the Committee on Conferences to intensify consultations with the secretariats and bureaux of bodies that underutilize their conference-servicing resources;

19. *Also welcomes* the efforts undertaken by the Secretary-General to increase the utilization rates of conference-servicing resources, and in this regard encourages the Secretary-General to enhance the efficiency of conference servicing and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its seventieth session;

20. *Urges* those intergovernmental bodies whose average utilization factor has for the past 10 years been below the benchmark of 80 per cent to take that factor into account when planning their future sessions in order to achieve that benchmark;

[5] ST/AI/416.

21. *Recognizes* that late starts and unplanned early endings seriously affect the utilization factor of the bodies owing to the amount of time lost, and invites the secretariats and bureaux of bodies to pay adequate attention to avoiding late starts and unplanned early endings;

22. *Notes* that the percentage of meetings held by the bodies entitled to meet "as required" that were provided with interpretation services in New York in 2013 was 98 per cent, and that in 2012 it was 97 per cent, as compared with 96 per cent in 2011, and requests the Secretary-General to continue to impress upon such bodies the need to continue to improve the utilization of the conference services provided and to report on the provision of conference services to those bodies through the Committee on Conferences;

23. *Reiterates its request* to intergovernmental bodies to review their meeting entitlements and to plan and adjust their programmes of work on the basis of their actual utilization of conference-servicing resources in order to improve their efficient use of conference services;

24. *Recognizes* the importance of meetings of regional and other major groupings of Member States for the smooth functioning of the sessions of intergovernmental bodies, requests the Secretary-General to ensure that, as far as possible, all requests for conference services for the meetings of regional and other major groupings of Member States are met, and requests the Secretariat to inform the requesters as early as possible about the availability of conference services, including interpretation, as well as about any changes that might occur before the holding of meetings;

25. *Notes* that the percentage of meetings held by regional and other major groupings of Member States that were provided with interpretation services at the four main duty stations was 93 per cent in 2013, as compared with 91 per cent in 2012, and requests the Secretary-General to continue to employ innovative means to address the difficulties experienced by Member States owing to the lack of conference services for some meetings of regional and other major groupings of Member States and to report thereon to the General Assembly through the Committee on Conferences;

26. *Once again urges* intergovernmental bodies to spare no effort at the planning stage to take into account the meetings of regional and other major groupings of Member States, to make provision for such meetings in their programmes of work and to notify conference services, well in advance, of any cancellations so that unutilized conference-servicing resources may, to the extent possible, be reassigned to meetings of regional and other major groupings of Member States;

27. *Welcomes* the efforts of all users of conference services to inform the Secretariat as early as possible of any cancellation of service requests so as to allow for such services to be smoothly redeployed to other meetings;

28. *Notes with satisfaction* that, in accordance with several resolutions of the General Assembly, including resolution 68/251, section II.A, paragraph 22, in conformity with the headquarters rule, all meetings of Nairobi-based United Nations bodies were held in Nairobi in 2013, and requests the Secretary-General to report thereon to the Assembly at its seventieth session through the Committee on Conferences;

29. *Notes with concern* the recurring underutilization of the conference centre of the Economic Commission for Africa, specifically given the ongoing

renovation of its facilities, recognizes the continuing promotional efforts and initiatives of the Commission, and requests the Secretary-General to report thereon to the General Assembly at its seventieth session through the Committee on Conferences;

30. *Welcomes* the efforts undertaken to improve the conference facilities at the Economic Commission for Africa, and in this regard encourages the Secretary-General to ensure that the ongoing work on the improvement of the remaining facilities, in particular Africa Hall, is completed in a timely manner;

31. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to explore additional means to increase the utilization of the conference centre of the Economic Commission for Africa, including with its partners such as the African Union, and to report thereon, including on the impact of the initiatives of the Commission, to the General Assembly at its seventieth session;

32. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to encourage the heads of entities of the United Nations system to use as a matter of priority, when applicable, the conference centre of the Economic Commission for Africa to ensure greater utilization of the conference facilities;

33. *Recalls* section II.A, paragraph 26, of its resolution 68/251, reiterates its request that the Secretary-General formulate a competitive pricing structure and an appropriate marketing strategy for the conference centre of the Economic Commission for Africa, and requests the Secretary-General to report thereon to the General Assembly at its seventieth session;

34. *Recognizes* the proactive efforts of the Secretary-General to identify ways to enhance efficiency and effectiveness in conference services;

35. *Requests* the Secretary-General to propose, at the seventieth session of the General Assembly, a comprehensive review of conference servicing, highlighting any duplication or redundancy, with a view to identifying innovative ideas, potential synergies and other cost-saving measures, without compromising the quality of the services;

36. *Reiterates its request* to the Committee on Conferences that it consult those bodies that have consistently utilized less than the applicable benchmark of their allocated resources for the past three years, with a view to making appropriate recommendations in order to achieve the optimum utilization of conference-servicing resources, and urges the secretariats and bureaux of bodies that underutilize their conference-servicing resources to work more closely with the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management of the Secretariat and to consider changes to their programmes of work, as appropriate, including adjustments based on previous patterns of recurring agenda items, with a view to making improvements in their utilization factors;

37. *Requests* the Chair of the Committee on Conferences to address a letter to the presiding officers of intergovernmental bodies based at duty stations other than New York if their utilization factor falls below the benchmark of 80 per cent;

B. Impact of the capital master plan, strategy IV (phased approach), on meetings held at Headquarters during its implementation

38. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that the implementation of the capital master plan, including the reassignment of conference-servicing staff to swing spaces, will not compromise the quality of conference services provided to Member States in the six official languages and the equal treatment of the language

services, which should be provided with equally favourable working conditions and resources, with a view to receiving the maximum quality of services;

39. *Requests* all meeting requesters and organizers to liaise closely with the Department on all matters relating to the scheduling of meetings to allow maximum predictability in coordinating activities at Headquarters during the construction period;

40. *Requests* the Committee on Conferences to keep the matter under constant review, and requests the Secretary-General to report regularly to the Committee on matters pertaining to the calendar of conferences and meetings of the United Nations during the construction period;

41. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to provide adequate information technology support for conference services, within the existing resources of the Department, in order to ensure their seamless operation throughout the implementation of the capital master plan;

42. *Emphasizes* the need to continue to improve all conference facilities, including the videoconferencing infrastructure, in all four main duty stations and in the regional commissions, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General to report thereon no later than at the seventieth session of the General Assembly;

43. *Notes* that, for the duration of the implementation of the capital master plan, a part of the conference-servicing staff and information technology resources of the Department has been temporarily relocated to swing spaces, and requests the Secretary-General to continue to provide adequate support, within the existing resources of the Department, to ensure continued maintenance of the information technology facilities of the Department, implementation of the global information technology initiative and delivery of high-quality conference services;

44. *Requests* the Secretary-General to consult Member States on initiatives that affect the utilization of conference services and conference facilities;

45. *Welcomes* the measures taken to ensure access to and use of conference services and conference facilities for persons with disabilities, including the establishment of the Accessibility Centre, and encourages the Secretary-General to continue further efforts in this regard and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its seventieth session;

46. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to address issues related to the accessibility of conference facilities as a matter of priority and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its seventieth session;

III

Integrated global management

47. *Notes with appreciation* the efforts of the Secretary-General in the context of the integrated global management initiative to establish and implement in the four main duty stations common performance indicators and single information technology systems (such as gData, gDoc, gMeets and gText), and requests the Secretary-General to report thereon to the General Assembly at its seventieth session;

48. *Reiterates with concern its request* that the Secretary-General complete the internal reviews concerning accountability mechanisms and the clear delineation of responsibility between the Under-Secretary-General for General Assembly and

Conference Management and the Directors General of the United Nations Offices at Geneva, Nairobi and Vienna for conference management policies, operations and resource utilization, requests the Secretary-General to report thereon to the General Assembly at its seventieth session, and in this regard recalls section III, paragraph 15, of its resolution 66/233, section III, paragraph 2, of its resolution 67/237 and section III, paragraph 38, of its resolution 68/251;

49. *Notes* the initiatives undertaken in the context of integrated global management aimed at streamlining procedures, achieving economies of scale and improving the quality of conference services, and in this regard stresses the importance of ensuring the equal treatment of conference-servicing staff, as well as the principle of equal grade for equal work at the four main duty stations;

50. *Also notes* that the effects of workload-sharing in the context of global document management remain minimal, and requests the Secretary-General to continue to seek ways to promote workload-sharing among the four main duty stations and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its seventieth session;

51. *Emphasizes* that the major goals of the Department are to provide high-quality documents in a timely manner in all official languages, in accordance with established regulations, as well as high-quality conference services to Member States at all duty stations, and to achieve those aims as efficiently and cost-effectively as possible, in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly;

52. *Notes* that the pool of language professionals at duty stations is uneven in terms of language combinations, and requests the Secretary-General to develop recruitment, subcontracting and outreach policies that take full account of these imbalances and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its seventieth session;

53. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that all language services are given equal treatment and are provided with equally favourable working conditions and resources, with a view to achieving the maximum quality of services, with full respect for the specificities of the six official languages and taking into account their respective workloads;

54. *Reiterates* the need for the Secretary-General to ensure the compatibility of technologies used in all duty stations and to ensure that they are user-friendly in all official languages;

55. *Takes note* of the progress made in the development and implementation of the conference management software gData, gDoc, gMeets and gText, and requests the Secretary-General to include all relevant information on their operation, maintenance and harmonization with existing systems, as appropriate, in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2016–2017;

56. *Notes* the development of an experimental statistical machine translation system (Tapta4UN) to accelerate translation services for some categories of documents, and requests the Secretary-General to report on updates, including cost-benefit analysis and quality preservation and control, about this system to the General Assembly at its seventieth session, through the Committee on Conferences;

57. *Reiterates* that the satisfaction of Member States is a key performance indicator in conference management and conference services;

58. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to ensure that measures taken by the Department to seek the evaluation by Member States of the quality of the conference services provided to them, as a key performance indicator of the

Department, provide equal opportunities to Member States to present their evaluations in the six official languages of the United Nations and are in full compliance with relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, and requests the Secretary-General to report to the Assembly, through the Committee on Conferences, on progress made in this regard;

59. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to continue to explore best practices and techniques in client satisfaction evaluations and to report regularly to the General Assembly on the results achieved;

60. *Welcomes* the efforts made by the Department to seek the evaluation by Member States of the quality of the conference services provided to them, taking into consideration comments and complaints raised by Member States either in writing or during meetings, and requests the Secretary-General to intensify his exploration of innovative ways to systematically capture and analyse feedback from Member States and Chairs and Secretaries of committees on the quality of conference services and to report thereon to the General Assembly through the Committee on Conferences;

61. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to seek evaluation by Member States of the quality of the conference services provided to them, including through the language-specific informational meetings held once a year, ahead of the substantive session of the Committee on Conferences, or any necessary meeting scheduled upon the request of Member States, not to exceed two meetings per year, and to ensure that such measures provide equal opportunities to Member States to present their evaluations in the six official languages of the United Nations and that they are in full compliance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly;

62. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to keep the General Assembly and its Committee on Conferences apprised of progress made in achieving integrated global management and to provide accurate and up-to-date information on new initiatives falling under the purview of the Committee;

63. *Reiterates its request* that the Secretary-General provide in his next report on the pattern of conferences information about the financial savings achieved through the implementation of the integrated global management projects, as requested in section III, paragraph 4, of its resolution 63/248, in section III, paragraph 12, of its resolution 64/230, in section III, paragraph 14, of its resolution 65/245, in section III, paragraph 14, of its resolution 66/233, in section III, paragraph 15, of its resolution 67/237 and in section III, paragraph 51, of its resolution 68/251;

64. *Notes* the Flextime pilot project initiated by the United Nations Office at Vienna, stresses that the rules and regulations of the United Nations governing human resources issues should be applied uniformly during the implementation of the pilot project, and requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its seventieth session on the evaluation of the pilot project, including a recommendation on whether the project should be continued at the United Nations Office at Vienna and further implemented at other duty stations;

65. *Welcomes* the integrated global management rule as an efficient approach, where feasible, to servicing meetings away from duty stations, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General to strengthen his efforts to realize further savings by rigorously applying the integrated global management rule to applicable meetings without jeopardizing the quality of services and to report thereon to the Committee on Conferences at its substantive session in 2015;

IV

Matters related to documentation and publications

66. *Emphasizes* the paramount importance of the equality of the six official languages of the United Nations;

67. *Underlines* that all the initiatives on the evolution of the working methods, including those introduced on a trial basis, shall comply with the principle of parity among the official languages of the Organization, with a view to preserving or enhancing the quality and scope of the services provided by the Secretariat;

68. *Emphasizes* the importance of multilingualism in the activities of the United Nations, and requests the Secretary-General to redouble his efforts to ensure full parity among the six official languages in accordance with General Assembly resolution 67/292 on multilingualism and to report thereon to the Assembly at its seventieth session;

69. *Requests* the Secretary-General to appoint the Under-Secretary-General for General Assembly and Conference Management as a new Coordinator for Multilingualism responsible for the overall implementation of multilingualism Secretariat-wide and to instruct the Under-Secretary-General for Public Information to continue to inform the public about the importance of this principle;

70. *Reaffirms* its decision in section IV of its resolution 64/230 that all reports adopted by the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review of the Human Rights Council shall be issued as documents in all official languages of the United Nations in a timely manner before their consideration by the Council, in accordance with General Assembly resolutions 36/117 A of 10 December 1981, 51/211 A to E, 52/214, 53/208 A to E and 59/265, and requests the Secretary-General to ensure the support necessary to that effect and to report to the General Assembly thereon at its seventieth session;

71. *Recalls* section III, paragraph 5, of its resolution 55/222, and reiterates with concern its request that the Secretary-General ensure strict respect for the rules concerning the simultaneous distribution of documents in all six official languages as regards both the distribution of printed copies and the posting of parliamentary documentation on the Official Document System and the United Nations website;

72. *Stresses* that matters related to conference management, including documentation, fall within the purview of the Fifth Committee;

73. *Reiterates* the importance of the timely issuance of documents for the Fifth Committee;

74. *Acknowledges* that a multipronged approach is required to find a solution to the perennial difficulties related to the late issuance of documents for the Fifth Committee;

75. *Notes with concern* the perennial difficulties related to the late issuance of documents for the Fifth Committee, and urges the Secretary-General to ensure the timely presentation of these official documents to the Committee and to find a lasting and sustainable solution to the problem so as to guarantee the quality of the intergovernmental process;

76. *Takes note* of the work done by the interdepartmental task force on documentation chaired by the Department for General Assembly and Conference

Management in positively addressing the problem of issuance of documents for the Fifth Committee;

77. *Encourages* the Chairs of the Fifth Committee and the Advisory Committee to continue to promote cooperation between the two bodies in the sphere of documentation;

78. *Welcomes* the continued efforts of the task force to shepherd the submission of documents by the author departments of the Secretariat;

79. *Notes* that accurate, timely and consistent information provided by the Secretariat to the Fifth Committee during its informal consultations facilitates the decision-making process in the Committee;

80. *Notes with deep concern* that the increased number of cases of the late submission of documents by author departments for translation into all official languages has resulted in serious difficulties for Member States in participating in the discussion and in taking decisions in a timely manner;

81. *Emphasizes* the importance of enhancing accountability within the Secretariat for the timely production and delivery of documents by ensuring that managers are fully informed of their responsibilities;

82. *Requests* the Secretary-General to include in the senior managers' compacts a new standard managerial indicator related to the timely issuance of official documentation to intergovernmental bodies and General Assembly committees and to report thereon in the context of the next progress report on accountability;

83. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to include in each section of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2016–2017 and all future budget proposals, under executive direction and management, an expected accomplishment of the Secretariat related to the timely submission of documentation needed for meetings of relevant intergovernmental bodies;

84. *Notes with satisfaction* that all documents submitted on time and within the word limit were processed by the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management within four weeks, and encourages the Secretary-General to sustain that level of performance;

85. *Reaffirms* its decision in section III, paragraph 9, of its resolution 59/265 that the issuance of documents in all six official languages on planning, budgetary and administrative matters requiring urgent consideration by the General Assembly shall be accorded priority;

86. *Reiterates its request* that the Secretary-General direct all departments of the Secretariat to include the following elements in their reports:

(*a*) A summary of the report;

(*b*) Consolidated conclusions, recommendations and other proposed actions;

(*c*) Relevant background information;

87. *Also reiterates its request* that all documents submitted to legislative organs, including the Committee on Conferences, by the Secretariat and intergovernmental and expert bodies for consideration and action have conclusions and recommendations in bold print;

88. *Notes with concern* that only 84 per cent of the author departments reached the compliance rate of 90 per cent in the timely submission of their reports to the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management, and reiterates its request that the Secretary-General enforce the slotting system more rigorously through a dedicated focus, such as the interdepartmental task force on documentation, and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its seventieth session;

89. *Urges* author departments to fully adhere to deadlines in meeting the goal of 90 per cent submission compliance, and requests the Secretary-General to ensure that documents submitted late do not adversely affect the issuance of documents submitted on time and in compliance with set guidelines;

90. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its seventieth session on concrete measures taken by author departments and the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management to improve the predictability of document delivery and ensure accountability for the meeting of deadlines in order to ensure the timely issuance of documentation;

91. *Reiterates its request* in section IV, paragraph 72, of its resolution 68/251 that the Secretary-General provide information on the waiver process for documents that are submitted over the word limit;

92. *Welcomes* the interactions between the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management and the author departments on waiver management, and requests the Secretary-General to ensure continuous efforts in this regard and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its seventieth session;

93. *Emphasizes* the role of Member States and their intergovernmental bodies in determining the policies on conference management;

94. *Stresses* that proposals to change such policies are to be approved by Member States in their relevant intergovernmental bodies;

95. *Notes* that the Official Document System is the official digital repository of the United Nations;

96. *Requests* the Secretary-General to complete the task of uploading all important older United Nations documents onto the United Nations website in all six official languages on a priority basis so that these archives will also be available to Member States through that medium;

97. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to take all measures necessary to ensure that the digitization of key documents in the Dag Hammarskjöld Library and in the main duty stations is completed in a timely manner, as appropriate;

98. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its seventieth session on a detailed time frame for the digitization of all important older United Nations documents, including parliamentary documents, and on options for expediting this process within existing resources;

99. *Welcomes* the efforts of the Secretariat on the digitization of important older United Nations documents, and requests the Secretary-General to propose ways to accelerate the implementation of this work and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its seventieth session;

100. *Expresses concern* that the anticipated lengthy digitization project may jeopardize the retention of historical knowledge and information in view of the delicate state and risk of breakage of many of the related documents;

101. *Requests* the Secretary-General to expedite the process of the digitization of important older United Nations documents, in particular those that have been identified as particularly important and in urgent need of digitization;

102. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to seek additional voluntary contributions for the digitization of important older United Nations documents;

103. *Welcomes with appreciation* the donations from China and Qatar to the digitization project;

104. *Recalls* the pilot project undertaken by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space at the United Nations Office at Vienna to make a transition to digital recordings of meetings in the six official languages of the Organization as a cost-saving measure;

105. *Emphasizes* that the further expansion of this measure would require consideration, including of its legal, financial and human resources implications, by the General Assembly and full compliance with the relevant resolutions of the Assembly, and requests that the Secretary-General report thereon and on the evaluation of the pilot project referred to in paragraph 104 above to the Assembly at its seventieth session;

106. *Recalls* paragraph 5 of its resolution 49/221 B of 23 December 1994, and stresses that the timely issuance of verbatim records constitutes an important part of the services provided to Member States;

V

Matters related to translation and interpretation

107. *Requests* the Secretary-General to redouble his efforts to ensure the highest quality of interpretation and translation services in all six official languages;

108. *Underlines* that the translation of official documents of the Organization must be provided in all required languages and in due time, in full compliance with the rules of procedure of the respective legislative bodies;

109. *Reiterates its request* that the Secretary-General ensure that the terminology used in the translation and interpretation services reflects the latest linguistic norms and terminology of the official languages in order to ensure the highest quality, and in this regard welcomes the development, within existing resources, of a global terminology portal that will be equally accessible to United Nations staff, Member States and civil society;

110. *Reaffirms* section V, paragraph 85, of its resolution 68/251, and reiterates its request that the Secretary-General, when recruiting temporary assistance in the language services, including through the use of international or local contracts, as appropriate, ensure that all language services are given equal treatment and are provided with equally favourable working conditions and resources, with a view to achieving maximum quality of their services, with full respect for the specificities of each of the six official languages and taking into account their respective workloads;

111. *Reiterates its request* that the Secretary-General consider further measures aimed at decreasing the vacancy rates at the United Nations Office at Nairobi, and requests the Secretary-General to report thereon to the General Assembly at its seventieth session;

112. *Requests* the Secretary-General to hold competitive examinations for the recruitment of language staff sufficiently in advance in order to fill current and future vacancies in the language services in a timely manner and to inform the General Assembly at its seventieth session of efforts in this regard;

113. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to continue to make every effort to enhance access to competitive examinations for applicants in all regions by bringing, to the extent possible, examination sites closer to their locations in order to allow the greatest number of potentially qualified candidates to participate in them, and to report to the General Assembly at the main part of its seventieth session on progress made in this regard;

114. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to continue to improve the quality of translation of documents into the six official languages, giving particular significance to the accuracy of translation;

115. *Reiterates* paragraph 8 of the annex to resolution 2 (I) of 1 February 1946 on the rules of procedure concerning languages, whereby all resolutions and other important documents shall be made available in the official languages and, upon the request of any representative, any other document shall be made available in any or all of the official languages;

116. *Stresses* the need to ensure the highest possible quality of contractual and in-house translation, and requests the Secretary-General to report on measures to be taken in this regard;

117. *Reiterates its request* that the Secretary-General provide, at all duty stations, adequate staff at the appropriate level, with a view to ensuring appropriate quality control for external translation, with due consideration of the principle of equal grade for equal work;

118. *Requests* the Secretary-General to apply common standards for the quality control of documents processed by external translators in all four duty stations, within existing resources, in order to ensure high-quality translations in the six official languages of the United Nations, and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its seventieth session;

119. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its seventieth session on the experience, lessons learned and best practices of the main duty stations in performing quality control of contractual and in-house translations, including on requirements relating to the number and appropriate level of staff needed to carry out this function;

120. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to establish globally standardized performance indicators and costing models aimed at a more cost-effective strategy for the in-house processing of documents, and requests the Secretary-General to submit such information to the General Assembly at its seventieth session;

121. *Notes with appreciation* the measures taken by the Secretary-General, in accordance with its resolutions, to address, among other things, the issue of the replacement of retiring staff in the language services, and requests the Secretary-General to maintain and intensify those efforts, including the strengthening of cooperation with institutions that train language specialists, in order to meet the needs in the six official languages of the United Nations;

122. *Notes* the need for energetic measures to avoid a disruptive shortage of applicants and a high turnover rate in the language career fields, particularly where rare language combinations are involved, and requests the Secretary-General to use

the appropriate means to improve the internship programme, including through partnerships with organizations that promote the official languages of the United Nations;

123. *Also notes*, in this regard, that recent efforts have led to the signing of memorandums of understanding and collaboration agreements with two universities in Africa and that a memorandum of understanding has been signed with a Latin American institution;

124. *Welcomes* the existing memorandums of understanding between the Organization and 22 universities as a way to strengthen the training of language professionals in order to improve the recruitment of qualified language staff, and requests the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to assess the appropriate number of memorandums of understanding in order to fulfil the needs of the Organization;

125. *Requests* the Secretary-General to make further concerted efforts to promote outreach programmes, such as traineeships and internships, and to introduce innovative methods to increase awareness of the programmes, including through partnerships with Member States, relevant international organizations and language institutions in all regions, in particular to close the wide gap in Africa and Latin America, and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its seventieth session;

126. *Notes* that the "African project" has the aim of establishing postgraduate university programmes in translation, conference interpreting and public service interpreting through centres of excellence on the African continent, and requests the Secretary-General to continue to report on the achievements of this project;

127. *Also notes* the current difficulties in recruiting translators at headquarters duty stations, particularly in New York, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General to ensure that the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management, in cooperation with the Office of Human Resources Management of the Secretariat, continues its efforts to raise awareness among all Member States about opportunities for employment and internships in the language services at the four main duty stations and to report to the Assembly at its seventieth session on efforts to identify and select qualified applicants;

128. *Notes with appreciation* the positive experience with traineeships at Headquarters and at the United Nations Office at Vienna in training young professionals in and attracting them to the translation and interpretation services of the United Nations, while enhancing the pool of qualified language professionals in language combinations that are critical for succession-planning purposes, and requests the Secretary-General to develop the initiative further, to extend it to all duty stations and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its seventieth session;

129. *Notes* the difficulties in identifying and retaining qualified language professionals and the need to replenish the pool of language experts in order to prevent further negative impact on the capacity of the Secretariat to provide services in the six official languages of the United Nations;

130. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to improve and strengthen his initiatives related to training and to replenishing the language capacity of the Organization, including through the outreach programmes, to ensure sufficient capacity to address the interpretation and translation requirements of the Organization;

131. *Recalls* paragraph 27 of the report of the Advisory Committee,[3] and requests the Secretary-General to approach permanent missions to identify outreach opportunities with universities, educational institutions and language learning centres located worldwide, in order to ensure the continued availability of high-quality professional language services in the six official languages of the United Nations;

132. *Requests* the Secretary-General, through the Department, to improve and expand the list of universities having memorandums of understanding with the United Nations, ensuring the inclusion of universities, educational institutions and language learning centres located in all geographical regions, whenever possible;

133. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to refrain from making any change of a substantive nature to agreed texts of both draft and adopted resolutions and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its seventieth session, including on measures to enhance the quality, efficiency and cost-effectiveness of editing services within existing resources.

77th plenary meeting
29 December 2014